

Casmalia Community Involvement Program

EPA has the lead responsibility for the public participation program at the site. The CSC provides support to EPA for this activity.

As part of EPA's commitment to involve the public in the decision-making process at hazardous waste sites, EPA plans to release a draft of the Casmalia Community Relations Plan (CRP) for public review and comment. The purpose of the CRP is to help the public become involved in the decision-making process by providing information about site activities and developing two-way communications between EPA and the public.

A number of activities are included in this plan, including updating the Information Repository (IR) located at the Santa Maria library, holding public meetings, issuing fact sheets and press releases when appropriate, providing a toll-free phone number for questions, maintaining on-going contact with government officials, and supporting the availability of funds for an independent technical advisor to help the community understand the site's technical documentation.

EPA encourages the public to review the draft CRP and provide comments, either in writing or by phone, to David Cooper of EPA (contact information on back of this panel). While the document is still in draft form, EPA will conduct a series of interviews to learn more about the issues and concerns of the community. These interviews will supplement information gathered during focus group meetings held by the CSC in 1996.

EPA plans to finalize the draft CRP by the end of the year.

October 19th Public Meeting

EPA will be holding a poster session and public meeting at the Minami Community Center's Studio Room on Monday, October 19, 1998. The poster session provides the community an opportunity to view detailed information about ongoing activities related to the site and to discuss specific issues with EPA and CSC representatives on a one-on-one basis. During the public meeting, EPA staff will make presentations on site work and on the public participation program. The time and location for the public meeting are:

Poster Session 6:00-7:00pm  
Public Meeting 7:00-9:00pm  
Minami Community Center, Studio Room  
600 West Enos Drive, Santa Maria

Casmalia Technical Support Grant

As part of the Consent Decree, the CSC set aside funds for a Technical Support Grant (TSG) to help the community understand technical aspects of the decision-making process. A fund of \$50,000 will pay for an independent technical expert to work directly with the community group that receives the grant.

The recipient of the TSG will be responsible for developing an outreach program to share the information received from the technical advisor with the rest of the community. EPA will assist any community group with their application preparation. If more than one group is interested in the TSG, the application process will occur in two steps.

The 30-day application period begins October 12, 1998 and ends November 10, 1998. A public notice announcing availability of the TSG will appear in the Santa Maria Times on October 12th. If only one application is received by November 10, a decision on the award of the TSG will be made by December 1, 1998.

The CSC intends to award only one TSG. After an application or a letter of intent to apply for the TSG is received from a community group, the CSC will publish a second public notice. This notice will announce receipt of the notice/application and encourage any other group interested in applying for the TSG to work with the first applicant. This will begin a second 30-day period allowing any and all groups to work together on a single application.

If additional letters of intent/applications are received during this second 30-day period but the groups inform EPA and the CSC that they are not interested in submitting a single application representing all interested groups, then all applications will be evaluated based on the award criteria listed in the TSG application packet. The grant will be awarded to the best qualified group.

If there is a competition between applications, a decision on the award of the TSG will be made one month after the end of the second 30-day period.

An application packet and additional information are available by contacting Cory Bertelsen of the Casmalia Steering Committee, at (925) 283-0541. Assistance in understanding and completing the application is available from EPA's Community Involvement Coordinator, David Cooper, at (415) 744-2179 or toll-free at (800) 231-3075.



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75 Hawthorne Street (SFD-3)  
San Francisco, CA 94105  
Attn. David Cooper

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

Penalty for private use, \$300 fine

October 1998

New Documents at Information Repository

During the next few months, EPA will be working with the CSC to reorganize and update the site documents in the Information Repository (IR) at the Santa Maria Library. The address and hours of operation are listed below.

Over twenty documents concerning construction of the Pesticides/Solvents Landfill Cap have been forwarded to the IR. These include the general work plan, construction design plan, health and safety plan and EPA's conditional approval letter.

EPA encourages the public to review these documents and to contact the agency with questions. In addition, there will be time before and during the October 19 public meeting to ask questions of EPA staff.

Information Repository

Santa Maria Library  
420 South Broadway, Santa Maria, CA 93454  
(805) 925-0994

Business Hours:  
M – Th: 10am – 9pm  
F & Sat: 10am – 6pm  
Sundays: closed

FIRST CLASS MAIL  
U.S. POSTAGE  
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U.S. EPA  
Permit No. G-35



October 1998

Construction of Pesticides/Solvents Landfill Cover Begins

The purpose of this fact sheet is to provide the status of activities at the Casmalia Disposal Site (formerly the Casmalia Resources Hazardous Waste Management Facility), including construction at the Pesticides/Solvents Landfill, winterization activities, the application for a contingency storm water discharge permit, dumping of refuse in Casmalia Creek and the suit against the facility's owner/operators.

The fact sheet also provides information concerning on-going community involvement activities such as the availability of funds to assist the public in understanding the technical aspects of the cleanup process and the addition of new documents in the information repository at the Santa Maria Library.

As part of the community involvement process, a public meeting and poster session will be held in Santa Maria on October 19th.



What is the CSC?

The Casmalia Steering Committee (CSC) is a group of public and private entities which have contributed waste to the site. They have agreed to perform work at the Casmalia Disposal Site under EPA's direction. This work, which has been under way since late 1996, is part of a four-phase plan to control and contain hazardous waste at the site. The CSC took over the emergency response action that was being performed by EPA when the Consent Decree was filed with the federal court.

What is the Consent Decree?

The Consent Decree is the legal document, filed with the federal court in September 1996, that defines the responsibilities of the CSC and identifies EPA as the lead regulatory oversight agency at the site. Under the Consent Decree, the CSC will perform all Phase I work, regardless of cost, and will perform Phase II work, pending the availability of funds from other sources. The Phase I activities include winterization of the site, construction of the RCRA cap for the Pesticides/Solvents Landfill, and award of a technical support grant to a community group.

CASMALIA Public Meeting & Poster Session

Monday, October 19, 1998  
Poster Session 6:00-7:00pm  
Public Meeting 7:00-9:00pm

Minami Community Center, Studio Room  
600 West Enos Drive, Santa Maria